

PRAYER

DRAWER 4A

Religion

71.2003 081 03309



# Abraham Lincoln and religion

## Prayer

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

PRESIDENT LINCOLN. The Augusta Journal publishes an extract from a private letter of Rev. R. C. Waterston of Boston, to a gentleman of that city, a paragraph from which we are sure will have an interest for our readers. He writes:

"On Sunday I was down at the School Ship to address the boys. Gov. Andrew was there and made some excellent remarks, as did also Judge Russell, who is always admirable; but perhaps the charm of all was the presence of Rebecca Howland, a leading member of the Society of Friends; with heavenly countenance and melodious voice she gave a deeply interesting account of a personal interview she had with the President—the good President, as she emphatically called him. It was at the White House, and they were by themselves, and they united in prayer, both kneeling side by side. This account was given with such simple beauty, and such deep spiritual feeling that all were melted to tears. The thought of the Quaker lady with her delicate and celestial aspect and the chosen head of a great nation, placed in his high and responsible position by the voice of twenty millions of people, kneeling there in childlike faith before the Supreme Ruler of the Universe. It was one of the most beautiful facts I have yet heard, and quite in harmony with his whole character."

3/30/62

Union Victories at Gettysburg  
and Vicksburg.

James F. Rusling relates in the New York Tribune the following impressive utterance, which was made in his hearing during Mr. Lincoln's visit to General Sickles, who had been wounded at the battle of Gettysburg, a day or two before. It was Sunday morning, July 5, 1863. Mr. Lincoln greeted Sickles right cordially and tenderly, though cheerfully, and it was easy to see that they held each other in high esteem. Greetings over, Mr. Lincoln dropped into a chair and, crossing his prodigious legs, soon fell to questioning Sickles as to all the phases of the combat at Gettysburg. \* \* When Mr. Lincoln's inquiries seemed ended, General Sickles resumed the conversation substantially as follows:

"Well, Mr. President I beg pardon, but what do you think about Gettysburg? What was your opinion of things while we were campaigning and fighting up there in Pennsylvania?" "Oh," replied Mr. Lincoln, "I didn't think much about it. I was not much concerned about you!" "You were not!" rejoined Mr. Sickles, as amazed. "Why, we heard that you Washington folks were a good deal excited, and you certainly had good cause to be. For it was 'nip and tuck' with us up there a good deal of the time!" "Yes, I know that. And I suppose some of us were a little 'rattled.' Indeed, some of the cabinet talked of Washington's being captured, and ordered a gunboat or two here, and even went so far as to send some government archives aboard, and wanted me to go, too, but I refused. Stanton and Welles, I believe, were both 'stampeded' somewhat, and Seward, I reckon, too. But I said: 'No, gentlemen, we are all right, and are going to win at Gettysburg,' and we did, right handsomely. No, General Sickles, I had no fears of Gettysburg." "Why not, Mr. President? How was that? Pretty much everybody down here, we heard, was more or less panicky." "Yes, I expect, and a good many more than will own up now. But actually, General Sickles, I had no fears of Gettysburg, and if you really want to know I will tell you why. Of course, I don't want you and Colonel Rusling to say anything about this—at least, not now. People might laugh if it got out, you know. But the fact is, in the stress and pinch of the campaign there, I went to my room, and got down on my knees and prayed Almighty God for victory at Gettysburg. I told him that this was his country, and the war was his war, but that we really couldn't stand another Fredericksburg or Chancellorsville. And then and there I made a solemn vow with my Maker that if he would stand by you boys at Gettysburg, I would stand by Him. And he did, and I will! And after this, I don't know how it was, and it is not for me to explain, but somehow or other a sweet comfort crept into my soul that God Almighty had taken the whole thing into His own hands, and we were bound to win at Gettysburg! No, General Sickles, I had no fears of Gettysburg; and that is the reason why!"

Mr. Lincoln said all this with great solemnity and impressiveness, almost as Moses might have spoken when first down from Sinai; and when he had concluded there was a pause in the talk that nobody seemed disposed to break. We were all busy with our thoughts, and the president especially appeared to be communing with the Infinite one again. The first to speak was General Sickles, who presently resumed as follows: "Well, Mr. President, what are you thinking about Vicksburg, nowa-

days?" "Oh," answered Mr. Lincoln, very gravely, "I don't quite know. Grant is still pegging away down there, and making some headway, I believe. As we used to say out in Illinois, I think 'he will make a spoon or spoil a horn' before he gets through." "So, then, you have no fears about Vicksburg, either, Mr. President?" added General Sickles. "Well, no; I can't say that I have," replied Mr. Lincoln very soberly; "the fact is—but don't say anything about this either just now—I have been praying to Almighty God for Vicksburg also." Of course Mr. Lincoln did not then know that Vicksburg had already fallen, on July 4. 2. 16. 54



Apr. 26, 1895

# LINCOLN'S FAITH IN PRAYER.

THE religion of President Lincoln has sometimes been questioned, but there is ample evidence on record, especially such as has been transmitted by his biographers, that he was essentially Christian. The latest testimonial of this kind comes from Gen. James F. Rusling, who has contributed a paper to the "Lincoln Number" of *The Independent* (April 4), in which he says primarily that it may be that Mr. Lincoln's early beliefs were unsettled, but that it is certain that our great war, as it progressed, sobered and steadied him, and that in the end he came to "walk humbly before God." As striking evidence of this fact, General Rusling gives a conversation that occurred in his presence in July, 1863, in Washington, on the Sunday after the battle of Gettysburg. General Sickles had lost a leg on the second day of Gettysburg, and arrived in Washington on the Sunday following (July 5). As a member of General Sickles's

staff, General Rusling was called to see him, and while there Mr. Lincoln called, with his son Tad. We let General Rusling tell the story:

"He [Mr. Lincoln] greeted Sickles very heartily and kindly, of course, and complimented him on his stout fight at Gettysburg, and then, after inquiring about our killed and wounded generally, passed on to the question as to what Meade was going to do with his victory. They discussed this *pro* and *con* at some length, Lincoln hoping for great results if Meade only pressed Lee actively, but Sickles was dubious and diplomatic, as became so astute a man. And then, presently, General Sickles turned to him, and asked what he thought during the Gettysburg campaign, and whether he was not anxious about it?

"Mr. Lincoln gravely replied, no, he was not; that some of his Cabinet and many others in Washington were, but that he himself had had no fears. General Sickles inquired how this was, and seemed curious about it. Mr. Lincoln hesitated, but finally replied: 'Well, I will tell you how it was. In the pinch of your campaign up there, when everybody seemed panic-stricken, and nobody could tell what was going to happen, oppressed by the gravity of our affairs I went into my room one day and locked the door, and got down on my knees before Almighty God, and prayed to him mightily for victory at Gettysburg. I told him this was his war, and our cause his cause, but that we couldn't stand another Fredericksburg or Chancellorsville. And I then and there made a solemn vow to Almighty God that if he would stand by our boys at Gettysburg I would stand by him. And he *did*, and I *will*. And after that (I don't know how it was and I can't explain it) but soon a sweet comfort crept into my soul that things would go all right at Gettysburg, and that is why I had no fears about you.' He said this solemnly and pathetically, as if from the very depths of his heart, and both Sickles and I were deeply touched by his manner.

"Presently General Sickles asked him what news he had from Vicksburg. He answered, he had none worth mentioning, but that Grant was still 'pegging away' down there, and he thought a good deal of him as a general and wasn't going to remove him, though urged to do so; and 'besides,' he added, 'I have been praying over Vicksburg also, and believe our Heavenly Father is going to give us victory there too, because we need it, in order to bisect the Confederacy and have the Mississippi flow unvexed to the sea.' Of course he did not know that Vicksburg had already fallen, July 4, and that a gunboat was soon to arrive at Cairo with the great news that was to make that Fourth of July memorable in history forever.

"He said these things very deliberately and touchingly, as if he believed thoroughly in them. Of course, I do not give his exact words, but very nearly his words, and his ideas precisely. He asked us not to repeat what he said—at least, not then—lest 'people might laugh, you know.' But his tragic death, and the long lapse of years since, and his imputed infidelity if not atheism, would seem to justify my speaking now. General Sickles also well remembers the above conversation, and gave the substance of it in a recent after-dinner address in Washington."

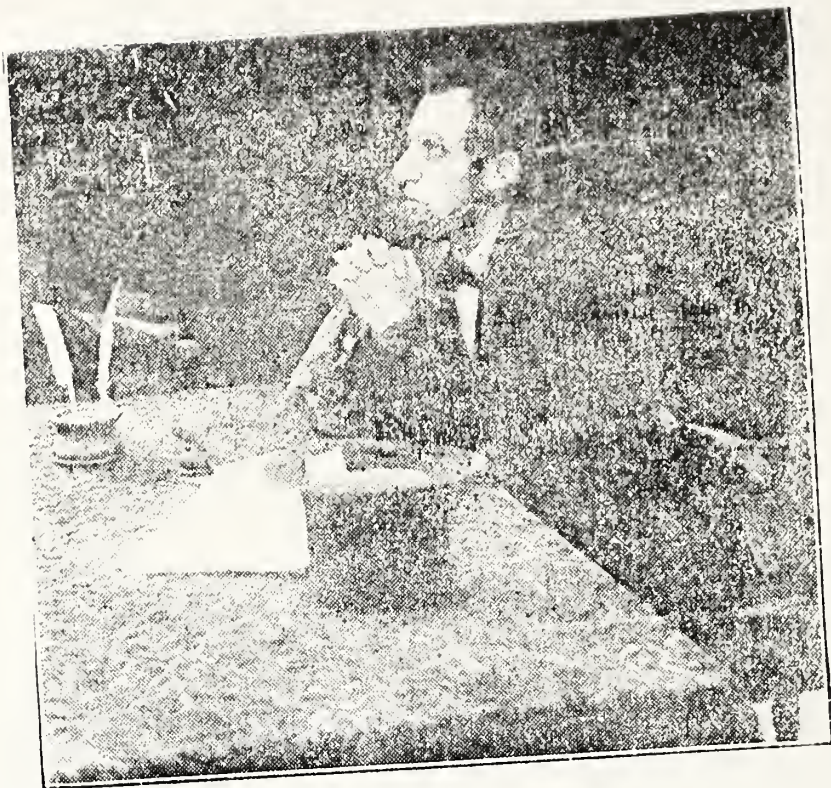
## The Homiletic Review

February, 1912.

### Lincoln's Faith in Prayer

The faith and power in prayer of Abraham Lincoln were illustrated by a personal reminiscence which General Daniel E. Sickles gave in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, recently. President Lincoln visited General Sickles in the military hospital in Washington, to which the General had been carried with one chance in five hundred to live, after a bullet at Gettysburg had shattered his right leg.

"Sickles, I couldn't help coming to see you as soon as I heard of your arrival," President Lincoln said. "I never prayed so fervently for anything in my life as for success for our arms at Gettysburg. As I prayed, a feeling of peace came over me and I rose sure of victory, for I knew that God had answered 'Yes' to me and would be with us on the field. Now, I am in prophetic mood. The doctors say you have one chance in five hundred to recover. I say you will get over this trouble, that you will outlive the war, and will be able to serve your country in years to come."—*Christian Herald*.



LINCOLN PORTRAYED IN THE BIRTH OF A NATION. 3 15 '76

LINCOLN PORTRAYED IN THE  
 BIRTH OF A NATION.

Joseph Penabery, the actor who por-  
 trays President Lincoln in D. W. Gri-  
 fith's Historical spectacle, "The Birth  
 of a Nation," was selected from twen-  
 ty players who were coached and pre-  
 pared for the part before the choice  
 was made. Mr. Lincoln's appearance  
 and mannerisms were carefully coun-  
 terfeited, even to the small but inter-  
 esting detail of the President reaching  
 back for his shawl just a few minutes  
 before Wilkes Booth attacked him.

Another view of Lincoln's character  
 is exhibited in his granting of a par-  
 don. As this scene opens, the gorgeous-  
 ly uniformed domestic representa-  
 tives are being received by the Presi-  
 dent. They then depart and he turns  
 to a plain middle aged woman dressed  
 in squalor black who had been wait-  
 ing a hearing. She tries to kneel to  
 him, but he gently raises her up and  
 talks to her, reads her petition and  
 signs the paper granting to her the  
 life of her son.

After the Appomattox surrender the  
 Leader of Congress calls with a pro-  
 nounced hostility with the South

erience, the President reaching the  
detailed detail of the President reaching the  
back for his shawl just a few minutes  
before Wilkes Booth attacked him.  
It was a spring day in Washington,  
—April 14, 1865,—but a late frost had  
set in that night and it was raw and  
cold. Mr. Lincoln felt the chill and  
drew the shawl around him.  
The scene in "The Birth of a Nation" is  
three days later, comes the awful t-

The first scene in "The Birth of a Nation" (showing the War President signing the call for 75,000 volunteers. Around him are his Cabinet heads and private secretaries. Lincoln fully realized the momentous character of the act that summed Federal troops to subdue the individual sovereignty of rebellious States. After the deed was done and the attending company departed, he slowly hurried



# Prayers

OFFERED AT THE OPENING OF THE  
DAILY SESSIONS OF THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE  
SIXTY-SECOND CONGRESS OF  
THE UNITED STATES

BY

Rev. Henry N. Conden, D. D.

CHAPLAIN



WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
1913

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1912.

Be graciously near to us, O God, our heavenly Father, as we draw near to Thee in spirit and in truth. Help us to seek first Thy kingdom and Thy righteousness. We are weak; Thou art mighty. Impart unto us strength. We know but little; Thou art wisdom. Impart unto us wisdom. We are selfish; Thou art gracious and kind. Make us magnanimous to all with whom we come in contact; and so may Thy kingdom come in all our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1912.

O Lord, our God and our Father, from whom nothing is hid, cleanse our hearts from all guile and open our eyes to the beauty of holiness, that we may resist the temptations which allure, that with firm and steadfast steps we may walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called. In the spirit of the meek and lowly Jesus, author and finisher of our faith. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1912.

O God, our Father, how great are Thy mysteries, how inscrutable are Thy ways, yet Thy holy influence touches the hearts of men and inspires to deeds of heroism and glory. The day of miracles will never end. Abraham Lincoln, born as lowly as the Savior of men, with little or no opportunity for an education and few books to guide him, increased in wisdom and knowledge and became the exponent of all that is purest and best. Surely he was the man of God, chosen to guide our ship of state through the terrible storm which broke upon it to a safe harbor, "with malice toward none and charity for all." He has builded for himself a monument more grand and imposing than the mind of man has yet conceived, which reaches from the earth beneath to the heavens above. Grant as the years come and go it may grow more stately, shine more brightly, a beacon light to guide us and future generations till the genius of our Republic shall be fulfilled in a union of brain and brawn and heart, to the glory and honor of Thy holy name. Amen.

Northwestern Christian Advocate

February 11, 1920.

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**LINCOLN'S RELIANCE ON DIVINE AID**

There was something touching in his child-like and simple reliance on divine aid, especially when in such extremities as he sometimes fell into; then, though prayer and reading the Scriptures was his constant habit, he more earnestly than ever sought that strength which is promised when mortal help faileth. He once said, "I have been many times driven to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for that day." At another time he said, "I am very sure that if I do not go away from here a wiser man, I shall go away a better man."—*Noah Brooks, in Harper's Magazine.*

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Classmate

Feb. II, 1928.

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## A Prayer for Lincoln's Birthday

BY P. R. HAYWARD

*O Lord and Christ, Thou who hast inspired the great hearts of all time, I thank Thee for the great soul of Lincoln.*

*I thank Thee for his intrepid search for knowledge in his crude country home. Grant that with all the books and teachers at my disposal, I may share something of his passion to learn.*

*I thank Thee for his love of justice. He stands in my mind as a man who strove eagerly to give the poor and unfortunate a fair chance in life. Save me, O God, from being so at ease and*

*selfish that I never ask myself if there is anyone in my day who suffers injustice.*

*For his willingness to forget himself in his love for others and his country, I give Thee thanks. Forgive me that I have been so self-seeking.*

*I thank Thee for His abounding good will, for His ability to see good in all men, and for His steadiness in trial and test. Enable me, O Christ, to live out in my daily life something of his spirit.—Amen.*

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**T**HAT Abraham Lincoln was a firm believer in the power of prayer is shown by two statements bearing directly upon his relationships with the Sanitary Commission, an organization for the aid of injured soldiers and sailors.

According to an account in the New York "Globe" Dr. John D. Hill was summoned to Washington in 1863 by President Lincoln, who told the physician how he received his plan for a Sanitary Commission, to assist in the care of the sick and wounded of the army and navy. Dr. Hill, after learning the President's plan, congratulated him on having originated such a comprehensive plan.

"You must carry your thanks to a higher Being," Mr. Lincoln replied. "One stormy night I tossed in my bed, unable to sleep as I thought of the terrible sufferings of our soldiers and sailors. I spent an hour of agonizing prayer to God for some method of relief, and He put the Sanitary Commission in my mind, with all its details, as distinctly as though the instructions had been written out by pen and handed to me. Hereafter, always thank God, your Heavenly Father, and not me, for this organization, which has eased so much pain and saved so many lives."

At the close of a four-day session of the Sanitary Commission, held in Washington in January, 1864, between forty and fifty ladies went in a body to call upon the President. Mrs. Helen Everston Smith, who was present, related this incident which was first printed in "The Independent," in 1900, as follows:

"The President shook the hand of each one, and when it became the turn of a little old Quaker lady from Philadelphia, as she stood with her hand in his, she said: 'Yes, Friend Abraham, thee needs not think thee stands alone. We are all praying for thee. All our hearts, the hearts of all the people are behind thee, and thee cannot fail!'

"The great Lincoln again grasped the hand of the little old Quaker lady and in a soft voice, he solemnly and with trembling lips replied: 'I know it. If I did not have that knowledge—it is not hope, it is knowledge, the knowledge that God is sustaining and will sustain me until my appointed work is done—I could not live. If I did not believe that the hearts of loyal people were with me, I could not endure it. It is that blessed knowledge that holds me to my work.'"

*Charles G. Smith     Joseph G. Smith     2-9-39*

C. VANDERHOOVEN

B-10 LONGCHAMPS APARTMENTS

ASHEVILLE, N.C.

April 26, 1944

Lincoln National Life Insurance Company  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Attention: Dr. Warren

Dear Dr. Warren:

In my private-leisure-hours study I have run across the following statement in one of my books of research:

"Lincoln has written a prayer for the  
American people which contains thirteen  
petitions."

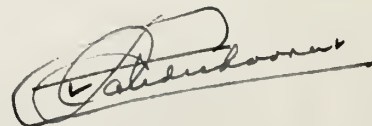
Neither in my own research nor with the help of others whom I have approached on this subject, and who have libraries on Lincoln, have I been able to get any information substantiating this.

Is it asking you too much to tell me whether you could direct me to the documentary evidence, or perhaps send me a copy of this prayer?

I have been informed that you have the finest and most complete library and knowledge about Lincoln, and it is for this reason that I take the liberty of addressing you, in my especial interest in locating this Prayer.

Thanking you very much for your kind attention to this matter, and for the response to which I enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, I am

Very truly yours,



CV:ERC  
Enc.-1

May 5, 1944

Mr. C. Vanderhooven  
B-10 Longchamps Apartments  
Asheville, North Carolina

My dear Mr. Vanderhooven:

I feel quite positive that Lincoln's mother wrote the prayer as such. It contains actually 13 petitions.

My feeling is that possibly in his messages to Congress or in the setting aside of days of prayer during the Civil War, it might be possible to find as many as 13 direct petitions and probably many more but I know of no document called Lincoln's prayer or which enumerates in numerical sequence 13 certain definite petitions which were phrased by him.

If you can give us any lead whatever aside from the little sentence in quotations which you have submitted, we will do everything further that we can to help you locate the subject material to which you refer.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CRS  
L.A. Warren

C. VANDERHOOVEN

B-10 LONGCHAMPS APARTMENTS  
ASHEVILLE, N. C.

May 9, 1944

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director  
Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Dr. Warren:

Thank you so much for your kind letter of May 5th in regard to Lincoln's prayer consisting of 13 petitions. As to the last paragraph, the little sentence which I gave you is the only reference which I found mentioned in my research work.

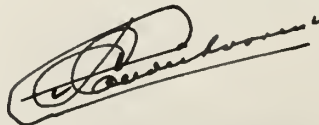
I have contacted on this problem several of my Lincoln student friends and also Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry, Director of the Department of Lincolniana, at the Lincoln Memorial University, who wrote me very extensively but with the same negative result, except that he mentioned Robert Sherwood's play "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" in which it seems that Sherwood has written "a very beautiful prayer for Lincoln to deliver at New Salem at which time he was in the depth of despair".

It may be that the author from which I quoted took Sherwood's prayer as an authentic expression of Lincoln (I have not been able to find a copy of his play), or I thought, perhaps, he might have substituted Lincoln's name for Washington's, but as far as I can find, Washington neither has written such a prayer as far as it is known.

To tell you the truth, I think the sentence which I quoted was entirely spurious due to some unknown circumstances.

In the meantime, I want to thank you very much for your kind attention to my letter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C. Vanderhooven', written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

C. Vanderhooven

CV:dms



## A LINE O' TYPE OR TWO

*Hew to the Line, let the  
quips fall where they may.*

Reg. U. S.  
Pat. Office

### WHERE LINCOLN PRAYED

"Lincoln's Church," a poem printed in this column last Saturday, March 11, was a piece of news as well as literature. It was inspired by the current demolition of a religious landmark in Washington, the New York Avenue Presbyterian church, which was Lincoln's place of worship during his Presidency. Readers of the poem may have noted a footnote stating that it was copyrighted by the author, John Jay Daly, for use in his book, "Around and About Washington," which will be issued at that city's sesquicentennial celebration. Requests to reprint will be forwarded to him. We cannot act on them.

\* \* \*

The cornerstone of this church was laid on Oct. 10, 1859. The congregation was founded, however, in 1803. The structure's graceful tower and lofty steeple have formed a familiar aspect of the Washington scene since the Civil war. The building, whose original cost was \$26,000, will be replaced by a new Presbyterian church, retaining some of the architectural features Lincoln knew, at a cost of \$893,000.

\* \* \*

Mr. Daly says of the old church's Lincoln associations:

"Just a short walk from the White House, only four city blocks, President Lincoln with his long legs could pace the distance to his pew in something less than 10 minutes—and often did. Those were the days before the secret service. Whatever the chief executive felt like doing, he could do without benefit of guardianship. Sometimes Lincoln walked. Sometimes he rode to church, especially on Sundays. In a victoria. One horse.

\* \* \*

"Wednesday night prayer meeting usually found Lincoln in the pastor's study, his presence unknown to the congregation. That's the way he liked it. Later, this sanctum became known as the Lincoln room. . . . There was another room the President liked—a Sunday school classroom where his son attended. Once Lincoln slipped in here, unbeknownst, to see how the boy progressed. In the 1930s, this room was furnished as a sanctuary and called the Lincoln chapel, used for weddings and baptisms.

\* \* \*

"Some years ago the old pews in the church were replaced. Out went the originals, with the exception of one. This was the pew Lincoln occupied. . . . In the hush of the interior, a homey sort of place, visitors and tourists stood in awe at the sight of the pew where Lincoln prayed. They wanted to kneel in the same spot. Finally the pew had to be roped off, locked to the public. . . . Lincoln's pew, which is well preserved, will be placed in the new building. It will stand at about the same distance from the pulpit as in the old. Lincoln's prie-dieu goes with the pew."

—†—

## Chicago Daily Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED JUNE 10, 1847

## JANUARY

### Christ the Hope of the Believer

PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope (1 Timothy 1:1).

*Jesus, my Lord, I look to thee;  
Where else can helpless sinners go?  
Thy boundless love shall set me free  
From all my wretchedness and woe.*

## FEBRUARY

### Imitation of Christ

FOR I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you (John 13:15).

*Thy fair example may I trace,  
To teach me what I ought to be:  
Make me, by thy transforming grace,  
My Savior, daily more like thee.*

## MARCH

### All Blessings Through Christ

ALL things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's (1 Corinthians 3:21-23).

*Let Christ assure me he is mine,  
I nothing want beside;  
My soul shall at the fountain live,  
When all the streams are dried.*

## APRIL

### Entire Consecration

NEITHER yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God (Romans 6:13).

*Yield to the Lord, with simple heart,  
All that thou hast, and all thou art;  
Renounce all strength but strength divine,  
And peace shall be for ever thine.*

## MAY

### Compassion for the Afflicted

REMEMBER them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body (Hebrews 13:3).

*With pity let my breast o'erflow,  
When I behold another's woe;  
And bear a sympathizing part,  
Whene'er I meet a wounded heart.*

## JUNE

### Live in Peace with All Men

If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men (Romans 12:18).

*His purpose is that we should bear  
His image now on earth,  
And by our peaceful lives declare  
Our new and heavenly birth.*



## JULY

### Prayer a Source of Joy

EVEN them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer (Isaiah 56:7).

*Prayer makes the darken'd cloud withdraw,  
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw;  
Gives exercise to faith and love,  
Brings every blessing from above.*

## AUGUST

### Sources of Sorrow— Persecution

THOUGH I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me (Psalm 138:7).

*Man may trouble and distress me,  
'Twill but drive me to thy breast;  
Life with trials hard may press me,  
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.*

## SEPTEMBER

### Temptation to Be Resisted

FOR we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

*From strength to strength go on,  
Wrestle, and fight, and pray;  
Tread all the powers of darkness down,  
And win the well-fought day.*

## OCTOBER

### Of Early Pious Instruction

CONTINUE thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them (2 Timothy 3:14).

*Lord, hast thou made me know thy ways?  
Conduct me in thy fear;  
And grant me such supplies of grace  
That I may persevere.*

## NOVEMBER

### Of a Joyful Resurrection

I KNOW that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God (Job 19:25, 26).

*Though worms may waste this with'ring clay,  
When flesh and spirit sever;  
My soul shall see eternal day,  
And dwell with God for ever.*

## DECEMBER

### Saints Shall Be Honored as Victors

I BEHELD, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands (Revelation 7:9).

*Now the conquerors bring their palms  
To the Lamb amidst the throne,  
And proclaim in joyful psalms,  
Victory through his cross alone.*



# Lincoln's Reliance on Prayer

**N**O PHASE of Abraham Lincoln's character has been more widely discussed and about which there has been more disagreement than regarding his attitude toward religion. For many years after his martyrdom the controversy was carried on and there still remains a minority, not at present

showed not only his firm conviction in the omnipotent and omnipresent God available to meet the needs of humanity, but he indicated his habitual dependence upon Divine Power to carry him through the momentous crisis in which he found himself. Could there be exemplified more sublime faith than is shown in the touching address he made to his

tones at once intense and reverential: On the opening day of the battle of Gettysburg, July 1, '63, he, Sickles, was in command of the III Corps of Meade's army, located on the Union Left; and while leading his men in the peach orchard sector he was severely wounded. So serious was his injury regarded by the field surgeons that immediate removal to a hospital in Washington was deemed necessary. Accordingly, a locomotive and single car were requisitioned for the journey to the capital, where he arrived shortly before midnight. He had no sooner been settled on a cot in the hospital than Lincoln himself appeared, wearing a shawl wrapped about his tall form and with the typical "stove-pipe" hat of the period.

After inquiring solicitously for the General's condition and expressing great concern for his welfare, the President, with evidence of the greatest anxiety, inquired as to the situation on the battlefield. As the first day's action at Gettysburg was on the whole unfavorable to the Northern forces, the General's reply was anything but encouraging. Lee's army had made substantial headway in driving back the Union forces. As the significance of the news broke upon Lincoln, the General said he had never witnessed so intense a look of anguish, of almost utter despair, as appeared on the President's face. For a moment he seemed as one stunned by an irresistible blow. Then, apparently entirely forgetful of the presence of another, he slipped from his chair onto his knees beside the hospital cot and in tones of unmistakable sincerity poured out his troubled sense to God. It was a prayer both of supplication and of complete self-surrender. He told his Heavenly Father of his own inability to save the nation; he had done all that mortal man could do, and now if the nation was to be saved to fulfill its destiny, God must save it.

Poignantly, pleadingly, he thus sought divine aid, laying bare his deepest thought, his most intense emotions to the Father whom he veritably believed not only heard his message, but who would come to humanity's need in this great crisis. For a considerable time he remained at prayer, until it seemed he had received his answer. Calm and deep assurance appeared on his countenance where only anxiety and stress had been seated. Then, satisfied and spiritually illumined as it appeared, he rose, again expressed his concern for the General's welfare, and quietly withdrew.

That Lincoln was not a member of an evangelical church has been used as evidence against him. Who could have been present at the scene General Sickles had witnessed and retain the slightest uncertainty as to the deep religious spirit with which Lincoln was imbued! With him religion was something much greater than ritual or dogma. Through the



vocal, which would hold to the charge made against him in his youth, that he was an infidel. What seems like unimpeachable testimony has been marshaled against this theory, and those who will explore his life and acts as set forth in the most reliable sources can arrive at but one conclusion: in the best, the highest sense, Lincoln was deeply religious.

In order to properly evaluate the situation, it becomes necessary to define religion. If to be religious was to accept

friends and neighbors in Springfield, when setting out for his inaugural in Washington? "Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him (Washington) I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail. Trusting in His care who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

To the voluminous testimony which



definite creeds, the hard and fast dogmas that were held to by the leading Protestant denominations in the regions in which Lincoln spent his youth, then it does not seem inconsistent with his later career that he should have been called an infidel. That term could have meant nothing more than that he had no faith in the type of Deity which the theology of the times presented. And the fierce theological discussions of the stern religionists of his youth presented little of the nature of the loving Father, to whom beyond peradventure Lincoln became accustomed to turn for strength, guidance, and sympathy.

In many of Lincoln's state papers, in many of his public addresses, he clearly

has been gathered relative to this subject, I wish to submit an additional item which I have never seen in print. About the year 1910, the Lincoln Club of Brooklyn, New York, of which I was a member, had for its guest speaker on the occasion of Lincoln's birthday, Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, the last of the major generals of the northern army. After the dinner at which he had delivered a most inspiring and thoroughly sympathetic address upon the life of the Great Emancipator, Sickles joined a party of a half dozen, of which I was privileged to be one, for a further intimate discussion of the subject of the evening's address.

He then told us the following story in

troubled years of his great service to humanity, he proved constantly both by word and deed that he had a Father in Heaven to whom he could go for aid with firm conviction that he would receive it.

Lizzie York Case has written these words:

There is no unbelief:

For thus by day and night unconsciously

The heart lives by the faith lips may  
deny,

God knoweth why.

Lincoln not only was possessed of unshakable faith, but he frequently proclaimed it. Yes, Lincoln was religious, deeply religious, in the highest and best sense.

ALBERT F. GILMORE



President Lincoln himself was led along in answer to prayer, led by this self sacrificing example of the people—led—as a child in a dark night on a rugged way catches hold of the hand of its father for guidance and support, so he clung fast to the hand of God, to the hands of the people, and moved calmly on with a faith that never waned through the gloom, the treachery, and the disasters which were multiplied by this treachery.

It was Mr. Lincoln who said, "Those soldiers who went through those dreadful fields of battle, blood and death—and returned not—deserve much more than all the honors we can pay.

"But let us remember always--those who went through the same fields and returned alive, put just as much at hazard as those who died, and in other countries would wear distinctive badges of honor as long as they lived."

And in closing his second inaugural you remember Mr. Lincoln said, "Let us care for him who shall have borne the battle—and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

## Roosevelt Flayed

Editor Lewis Oliver Hartman of *Zion's Herald*, 112-year-old voice of Methodism in New England, had heard no "call to prayer from the pen of the present President of the United States." He felt "impressed with the crying need of such a summons at a time like this." So Editor Hartman printed on the cover of his last week's issue a call to prayer by Abraham Lincoln and on his editorial page he sorrowfully flayed Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"To be sure," wrote Editor Hartman, "there is here and there a little lip-service to the Almighty and upon occasion the President worships in a historic Washington church. Doubtless in his private life he recognizes an Unseen Power. But we cannot forget that Franklin D. Roosevelt inaugurated his term, not by any provision to quench the spiritual thirst of the American people with the water that springs up into eternal life, but with the unloosing of the liquor evil. . . ."

Calling the President's efforts to end unemployment a "noble ministry," Editor Hartman nevertheless declared: "But the whole task of reconstruction has been conceived in materialistic terms. God has been left out. We do not mean by this that His name has not been mentioned, but that there has been a strange and persistent failure to recognize those higher spiritual meanings and values for which the word 'God' stands. Although there are 60,000,000 church members in the United States of America, when has Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an earnest and arresting call . . . for their help in the present crisis? . . . To what extent has the President consulted with churchmen in the course of his interminable conferences with big business men and labor leaders scrambling for material advantage?"

Concluded Editor Hartman: "The President has not yet caught up with the social creed of the churches. He is dilly-dallying with the profit-makers. . . ."

On *Zion's Herald's* cover was a proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln in 1863.\* In this, one of at least three calls to prayer uttered by President Lincoln, he reminded the nation that "we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown; but we have forgotten God." Indeed, wrote the President, "may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins? . . ."

Accordingly Abraham Lincoln designated April 30, 1863 as a day of "national humiliation, fasting and prayer." Citizens were to abstain from secular pursuits "and to unite at their several places of public worship and their respective homes in keeping the day holy to the Lord." Concluded the proclamation: "All this being done in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope authorized by the divine teachings, that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high. . . ."

## TELLS HOW ABRAHAM LINCOLN KNELT AT BEDSIDE AND PRAYED

FRESNO, Cal., Dec. 16.—Paris Henderson of East Long Beach, who is a delegate to the Methodist Conference here, says that in his boyhood he knew Abraham Lincoln well.

"Few knew what an intensely religious man Lincoln was," said Mr. Henderson. "My first sight of him impressed his true religion upon me intensely. I shall never forget it. Lincoln lived in Springfield and worked in Sullivan, Ill. My father owned a farm half-way between those two places, and Lincoln often spent the night in our home. The first time I saw him was late at night. He had travelled hard and arrived at our house at a late hour.

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## PRESIDENT LINCOLN ON PRAYER.

### HIS RESPONSE IN 1862 TO A DELEGATION OF LUTHERAN MINISTERS.

*From the New-York Observer.*

Among the religious denominations of our land the first to take definite action with the view of strengthening the hands of the President by assuring him of the sympathy and prayers of the church was the Lutheran. In the Spring of 1862 a series of resolutions having this object was adopted by the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States. I was appointed Chairman of the committee to present them to the President. The other members of the committee were the Rev. Dr. Pohlman and the Hon. Mr. Van Dyke, both of Albany, the latter at that time Superintendent of Banking. When the committee called at the State Department to arrange for an interview Mr. Seward asked me if I had a copy of the resolutions that we were about to present, as the President would wish to know beforehand what he was to respond to. I handed him a Baltimore paper in which they had been published. That day, a little before noon, we were introduced to the President by Mr. Seward. In presenting the engrossed copy of the resolutions signed by the officers of the General Synod I made a short address, as did also Dr. Pohlman.

When the President came to respond he said he would read what he had written, and did so. He then invited the committee to be seated, and freely entered into conversation with them. Gen. Sprague, having just come from the front, was called in for a few moments to report. When he had retired the President turned to us and said with no little animation: "We shall soon foreclose upon them, unless they hit us a lick back again." I afterward frequently thought of that peculiar expression when we got so many licks back.

I asked Mr. Seward for the manuscript containing Mr. Lincoln's response, which he gave me, after having it copied. It reads as follows:

"GENTLEMEN: I welcome here the representatives of the Evangelical Lutherans of the United States. I accept with gratitude their assurances of the sympathy and support of the enlightened, influential, and loyal class of my fellow-citizens in an important crisis, which involves, in my judgment, not only the civil and religious liberties of our own dear land, but in a large degree the civil and religious liberties of mankind in many countries and throughout many ages. You all know, gentlemen, and the world knows, how reluctantly I accepted this issue of battle, forced upon me on my advent to this place by the internal enemies of our country. You all know, the world knows, the forces and the resources the public agents have brought into employment to sustain a Government against which there has been brought not one complaint of real injury committed against society at home or abroad. You all may recollect that, in taking up the sword thus forced into our hands, this Government appealed to the prayers of the pious and the good, and declared that it placed its whole dependence upon the favor of God. I now, humbly and reverently, in your presence, reiterate the acknowledgment of that dependence, not doubting that if it shall please the Divine Being who determines the destinies of nations that this shall remain a united people, they will, humbly seeking the divine guidance, make their prolonged national existence a source of new benefits to themselves and their successors, and to all classes and conditions of mankind."

I am the only survivor of the committee to whom the address was made. Of those clergymen that accompanied the committee there is but one alive. Though the interview above described has been recorded in the historical annals of those stirring times, yet I do not know that the response of the President has hitherto been published in full.

L. STERNBERG.

ELLSWORTH, Kau.



## Prayer

**G**OD of our Fathers,

We thank Thee that Thou hast raised up from time to time worthy men to be deliverers of the people. We pour out our gratitude to Thee for Thy servant Abraham Lincoln.

We think of his lowly birth, his struggle with adverse circumstances, his summons to the leadership of the nation in a time of darkness and danger, his loneliness, his Gethsemane of sorrows, his death in the hour of victory.

We thank Thee for his sense of justice, for his toleration and magnanimity, for his sympathy with the poor, the weak, the oppressed, for his selfless devotion to the saving of the nation. We praise Thee for his patience, for his courage, faltering not in weariness, failing not in trial, for his calm reliance upon the vitality and invincibility of moral forces, for his faith in God and his trust in the people.

We ask Thee to make us worthy of his memory. Breathe a new spirit into the life of the nation. Rebuke selfishness. Strengthen virtue in the hearts of all the people. Deepen the sense of duty in our political life. Bind up the nation's wounds. Save the people. Lord, make us worthy of the memory of Abraham Lincoln. Amen.

MERLE N. SMITH.

## *Recalls How Lincoln Kneled Beside His Bed And Prayed*

**California Man Tells Of Civil War President's Coming  
Into Home—Had Deep Religious  
Fervor, He Declares.**

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### LINCOLN'S DEPENDENCE ON PRAYER.

General Sickles lost a leg at Gettysburg. He was in the hospital at Washington. Mr. Lincoln called upon him. General Rushing was present at the interview. I have this statement of the interview from the lips of General Sickles and also General Rushing. General Sickles asked: "President Lincoln, were you not alarmed during the Gettysburg days?" Mr. Lincoln answered: "No, General, I was not; some of our people were, but I was not. Stanton thought we had better put the archives on a gunboat, but I thought we would come out all right." General Sickles asked, "President Lincoln, why were you not alarmed?" Mr. Lincoln hesitated a little and said: "Now, General, you have asked me, I will tell you. I went into my room, locked the door, got down on my knees and said, 'O, Lord, Lord, I have done absolutely everything I can, and now you must help,' and God told me he would give me Gettysburg, and I believed him."—*Bishop Fowler, in Orations.*

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